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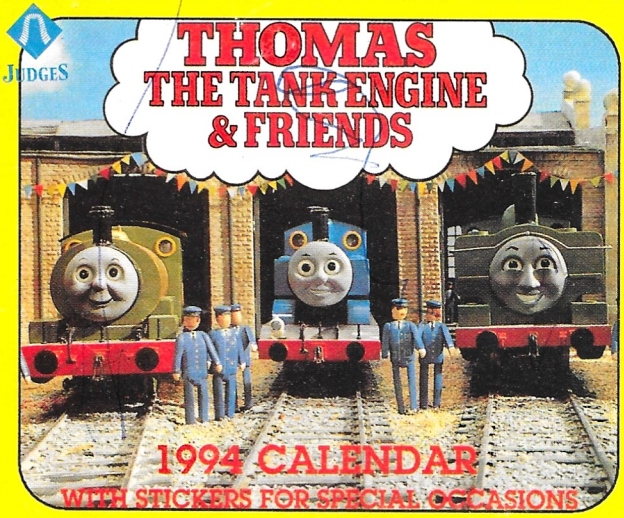
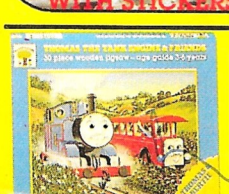
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS CALENDARS AND GAMES TO BE WON INSIDE!





Michael Stanfield

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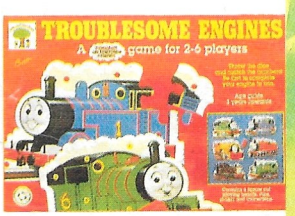
NOTICEBOARD

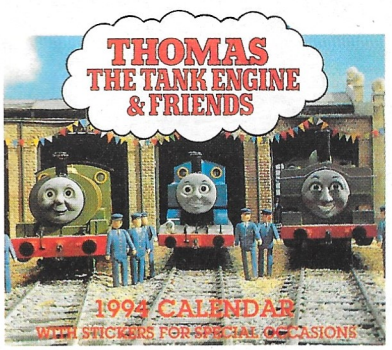
Peep! Peep! Winter has come to the Island of Sodor and the Fat Controller is preparing his engines for some difficult tasks. Thomas is working very hard in both our stories and he is using his special snow-plough! But, will the severe wintry weather prevent Thomas from rescuing the Fat Controller? Peep! Peep!

THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITIONS!

You can win a *NEW* **Troublesome Engines Game** or a **30-piece puzzle** in our first competition on page **7**, courtesy of *Michael Stanfield Ltd.*



Win a **1994 Thomas Calendar** printed by *Judges Postcards Ltd.* Turn to page **14**!



Michael Stanfield JUDGES

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Age .....

THOMAS TOKEN

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

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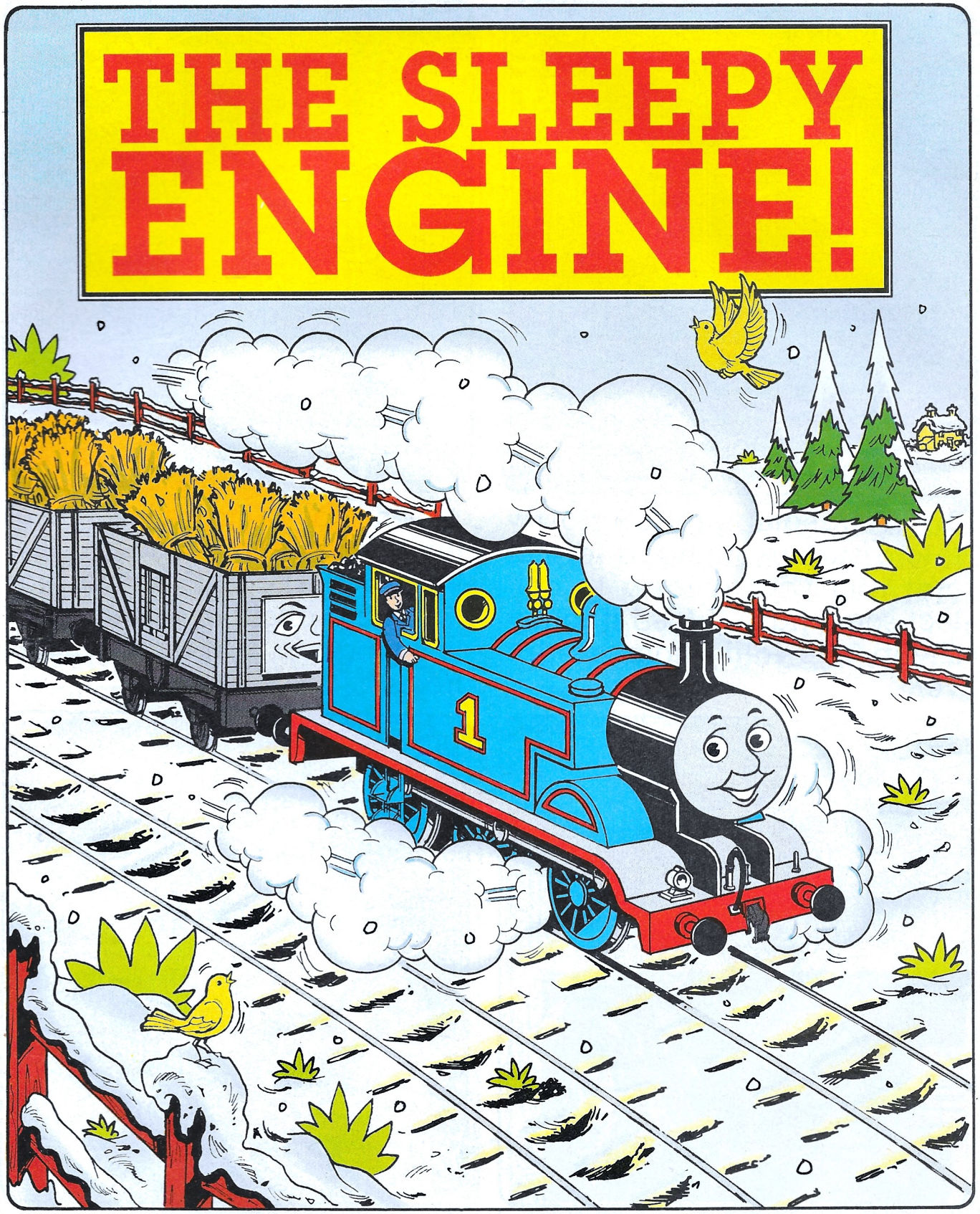
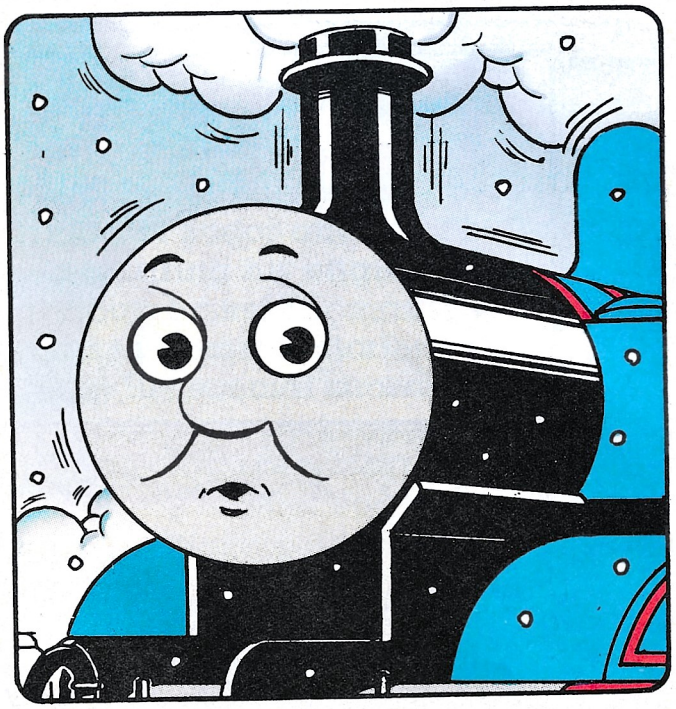
THE SLEEPY ENGINE!



1. Winter on the Island of Sodor had brought freezing weather. A blanket of snow covered the countryside as Thomas steamed busily along his branch line.

2. He was pulling trucks full of hay for the hill farms. The rails felt ice-cold under Thomas's wheels and he was grateful for the warmth of his boiler.

3. As Thomas rolled slowly into a station siding, a farmer met him with a lorry to collect some hay. "I feed it to my sheep," he told Thomas's driver.



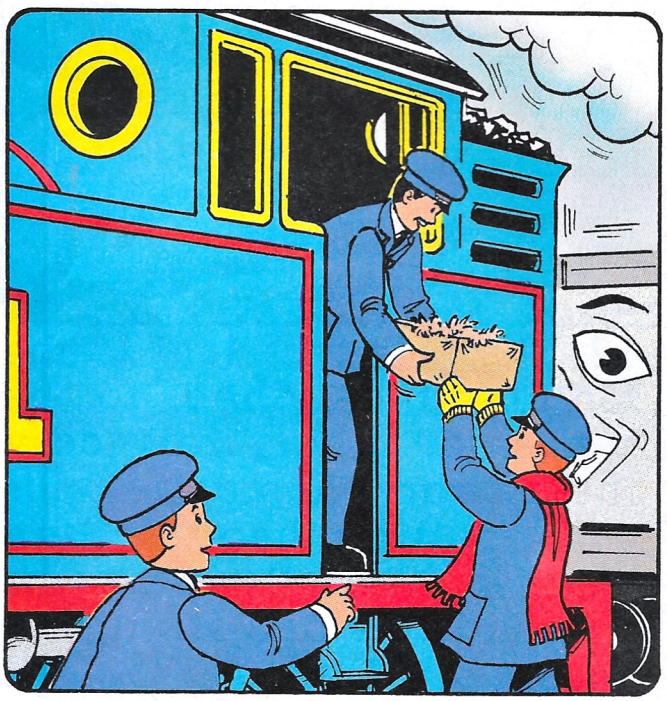
4. Thomas waited while one of his trucks was unloaded. "Brr! Please hurry up!" he called. "Standing about in this weather is enough to make my wheels freeze!"

5. "I'm working as fast as I can!" replied Thomas's guard. As he lifted a big sheaf of hay and put it by the track, a small, round, prickly ball rolled out.

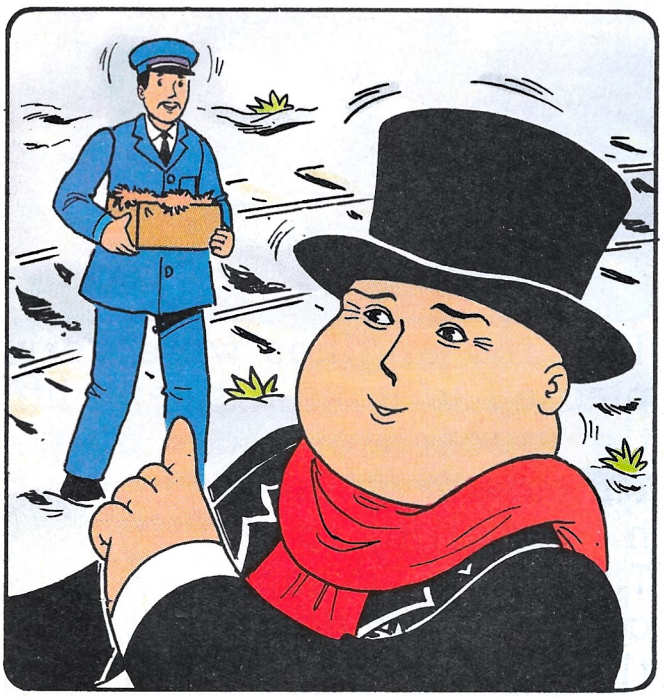
6. "How did that ball get in the hay?" asked Thomas. Imagine his surprise as it slowly began to open. Then Thomas noticed four little legs and a pointed face.

7. "It's a hedgehog," said Thomas's guard, carefully picking up the animal. "It must have crawled into the hay to hibernate!" "What's that?" Thomas asked him.

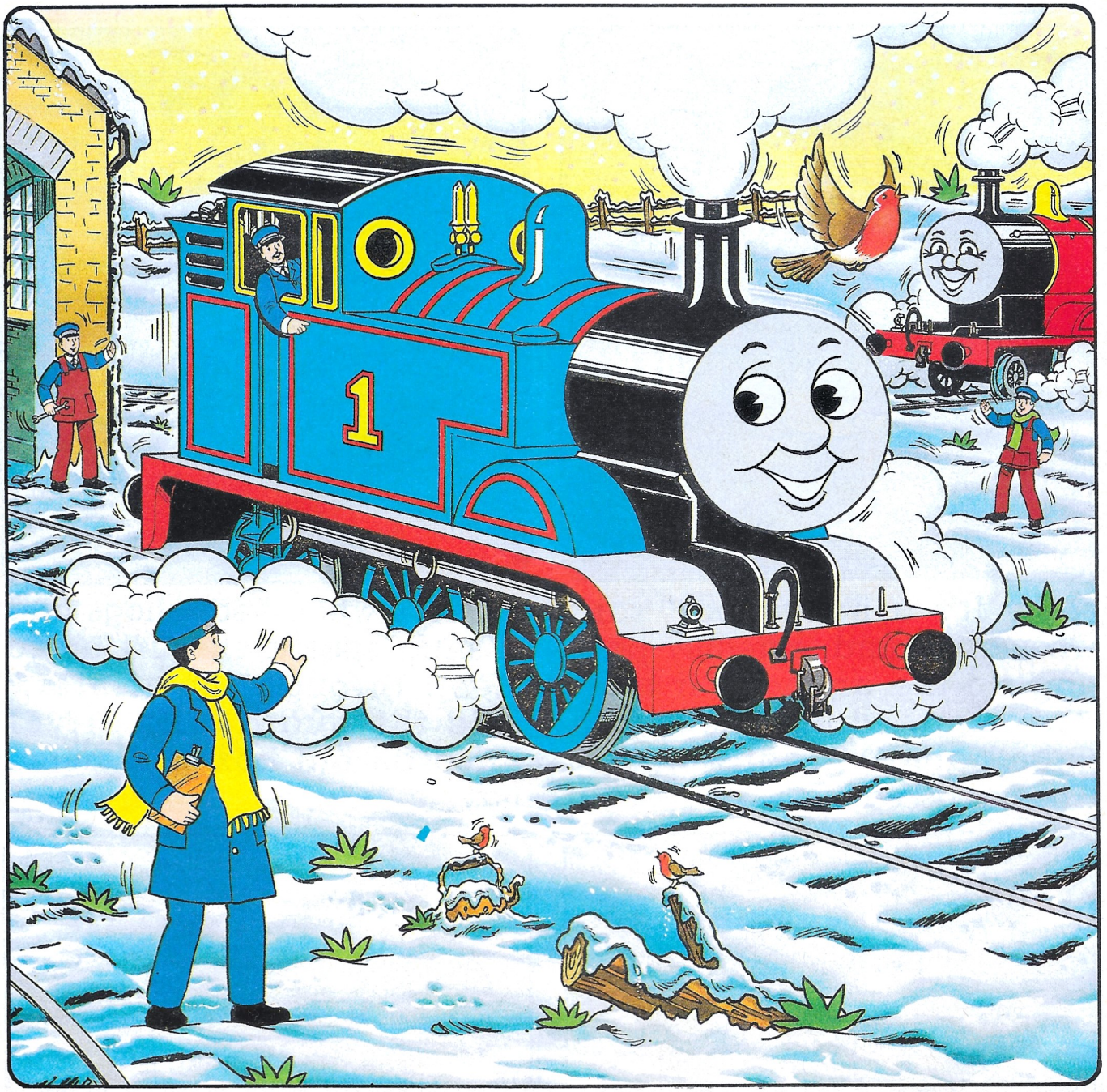
8. "It's when hedgehogs find a snug spot then curl up to sleep through the winter," said the guard. The driver lined an old box with some hay.



9. "The hedgehog can sleep safely in here by Thomas's warm firebox," he told the guard. The fireman agreed and Thomas set off with his unusual passenger.



10. Later, he returned to the Main Station yard. The Fat Controller had an idea. "Put the hedgehog's box in the corner of the engine shed till spring!" he said.



11. The engines were very pleased to have a sleepy little guest to look after. Thomas explained all about hibernating to the others. That night, it snowed again and the next day was colder than ever. When Thomas puffed into the yard, a cloud of steam hissed from him. "Oh, one of my pipes is leaking!" he cried.

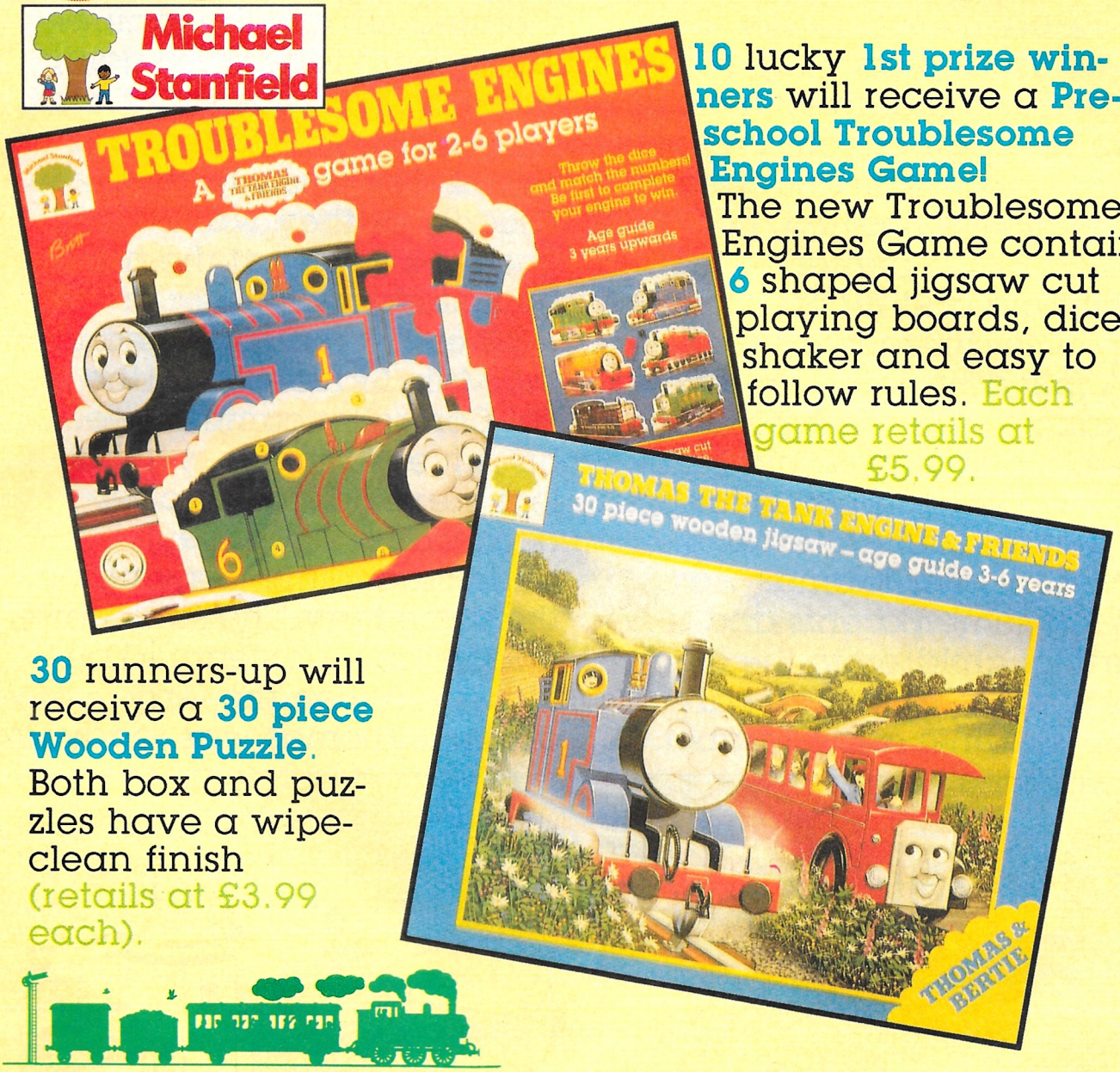
12. Thomas was sent to the Maintenance Shed to be repaired. It was very cosy inside and Thomas felt his eyes getting heavier and heavier. When the pipe was mended, his driver called, "Wake up, Thomas! You fell asleep!" Thomas yawned and puffed into the cold yard. "Engines should hibernate, too," he shivered.

THE END!

In our next issue: The Christmas party!

COMPETITION!

Michael Stanfield



10 lucky **1st prize winners** will receive a **Preschool Troublesome Engines Game!** The new Troublesome Engines Game contains **6** shaped jigsaw cut playing boards, dice shaker and easy to follow rules. Each game retails at £5.99.

30 runners-up will receive a **30 piece Wooden Puzzle**. Both box and puzzles have a wipe-clean finish (retails at £3.99 each).

How to enter

For your chance to win one of these games or puzzles, simply answer the question below!

What is the Fat Controller's real name?

Send your answer, along with your name and address, to *Thomas/Michael Stanfield Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*

Closing date: **January 7th, 1994.**

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd and Michael Stanfield Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

THOMAS'S LUCKY BREAK!

The Fat Controller had been even busier than usual preparing a Christmas timetable, to make sure his engines could carry extra passengers and freight. When it was finished, he posted it to a printer on the mainland and ordered lots of copies for his railway staff.

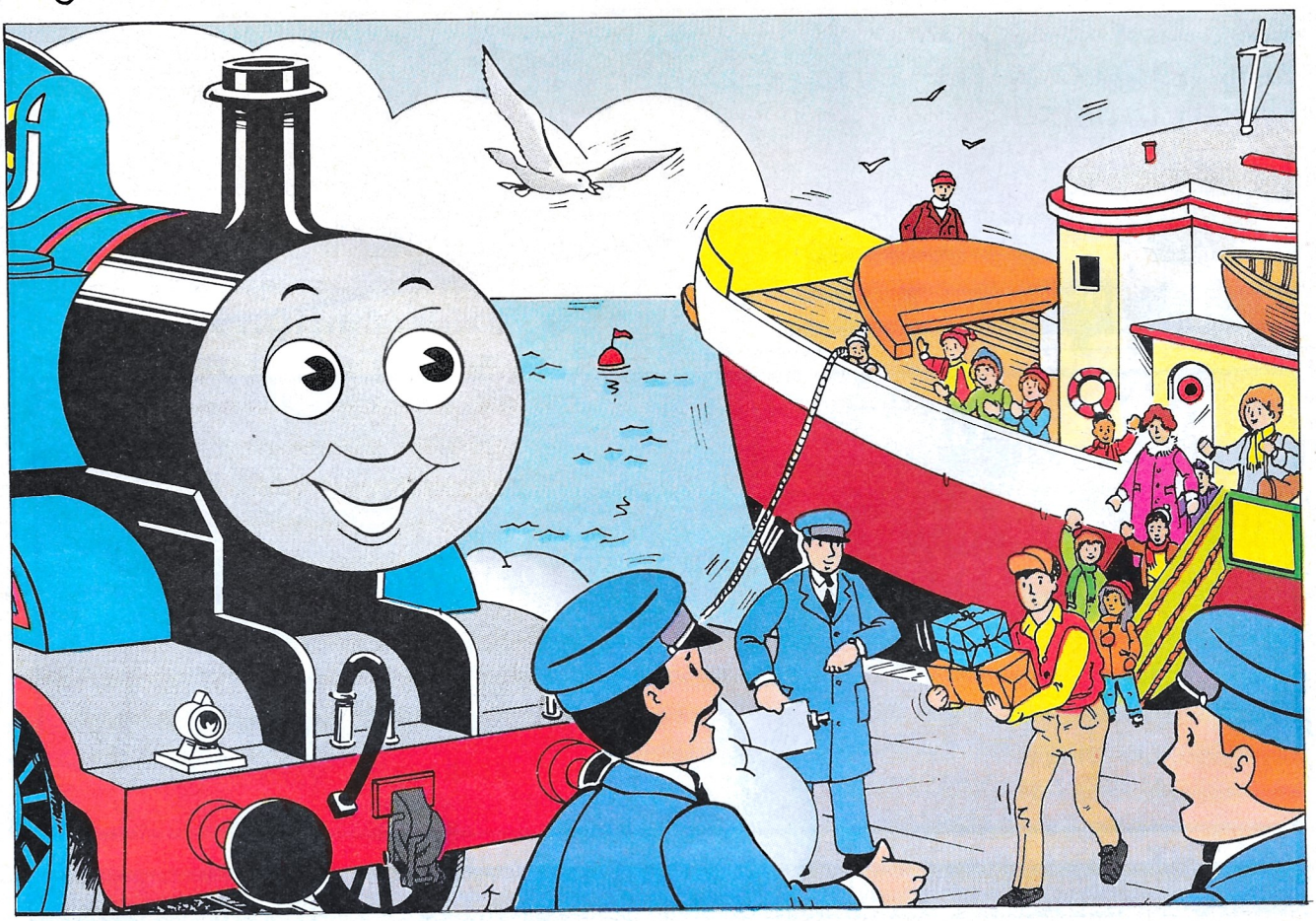
A few days later, the printer rang to say the timetables were ready and would be sent to the Island of Sodor by ferry, that same afternoon.

Meanwhile, Thomas was taking some parents and a party of children to the Big Harbour in his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. They were to catch the morning ferry to the mainland where they were going to see a Christmas show.

"Peep! Peep! Enjoy yourselves!" Thomas whistled cheerily as they waved goodbye to him at the harbour station.

When Thomas returned to the Main Station yard, the Fat Controller came to see his driver. "Thomas is to collect the children this afternoon and a package addressed to me, arriving on the same ferry," he said.

Soon Thomas steamed on his way. When the ferry docked, Thomas was ready



and waiting for the children to climb aboard Annie and Clarabel once more.

"Two parcels from the printer for the Fat Controller," the ferryman told Thomas's guard.

"That's odd! I thought there was only one," he replied.

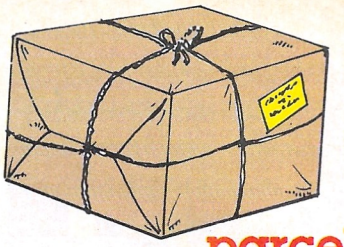
The guard loaded both parcels into his guard's van and Thomas began the return journey. He had not gone far when his driver saw a signal was at 'stop'.

Thomas pulled up sharply. His wheels squealed and, in the guard's van, the two parcels fell off a shelf. One burst open. The guard was surprised to see it was full of children's comics. Next moment, a signalman nearby explained there was a signalling fault on the main line.

"It's not safe for Thomas to go on until it's repaired," he said.

Thomas had to stand patiently on the track for what seemed like hours. The children became restless. Then the guard had an idea.

"The Fat Controller must have ordered these comics specially for the children," he thought.
He spoke to the driver and they decided to hand them out.



parcel

The children enjoyed the comics very much and read them quietly until Thomas finally puffed into the Main Station. The Fat Controller and another man were waiting on the platform.

"The printer called to say a parcel of comics was labelled to me as well, by mistake!" said the Fat Controller.The other man was a newsagent who had come to collect them. When Thomas's guard and driver explained what they had done, the newsagent laughed.

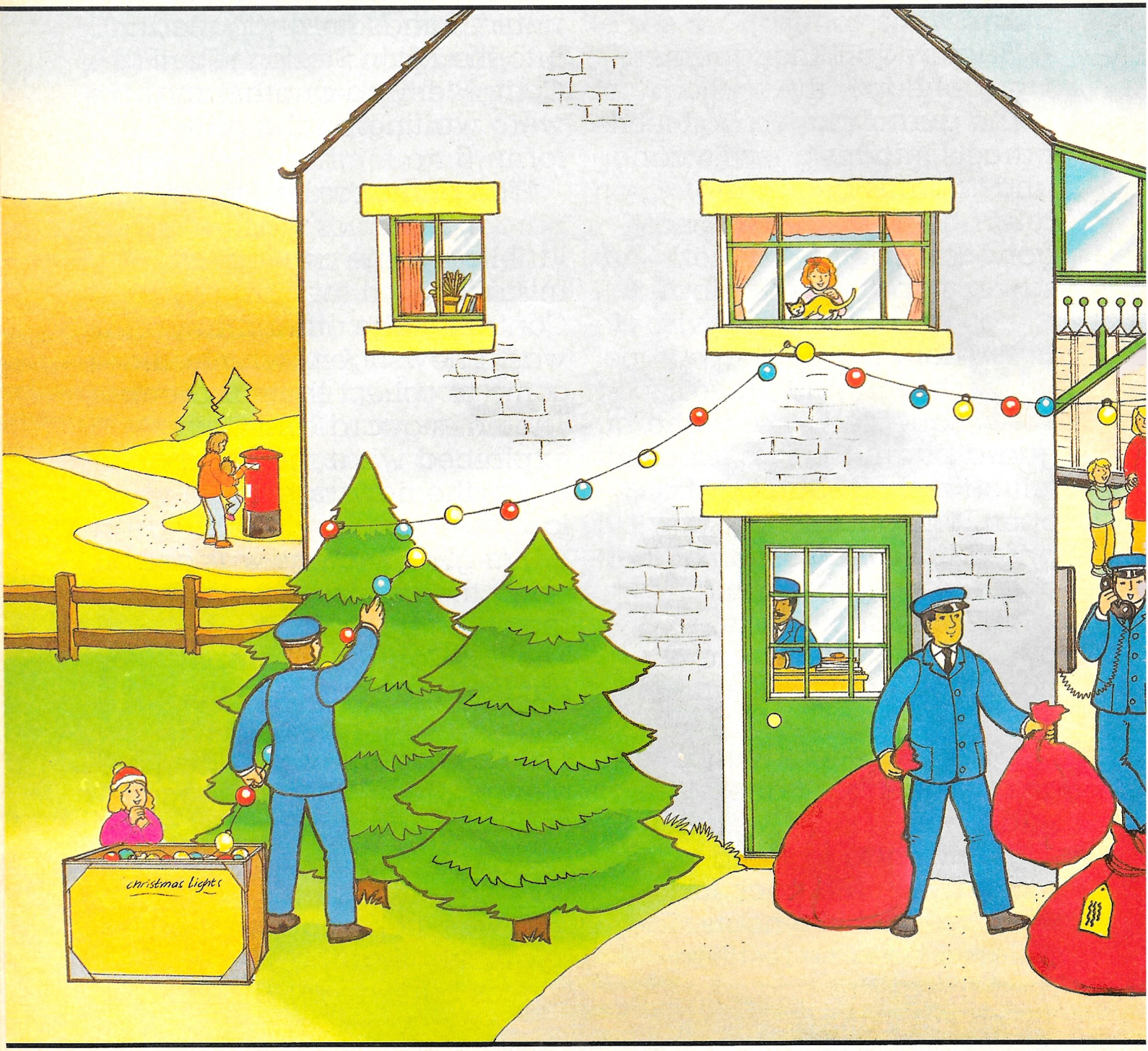
"I'm glad Thomas was carrying the comics to entertain the children!" he said.
The Fat Controller happily paid for the comics so the children could keep them. The newsagent was very pleased, too. When the second package was opened, there were all the new railway timetables.

"It was lucky you stopped so quickly that the parcel of comics burst open, Thomas," said his driver.

"What a comical story!" chuckled Thomas.

THE END!

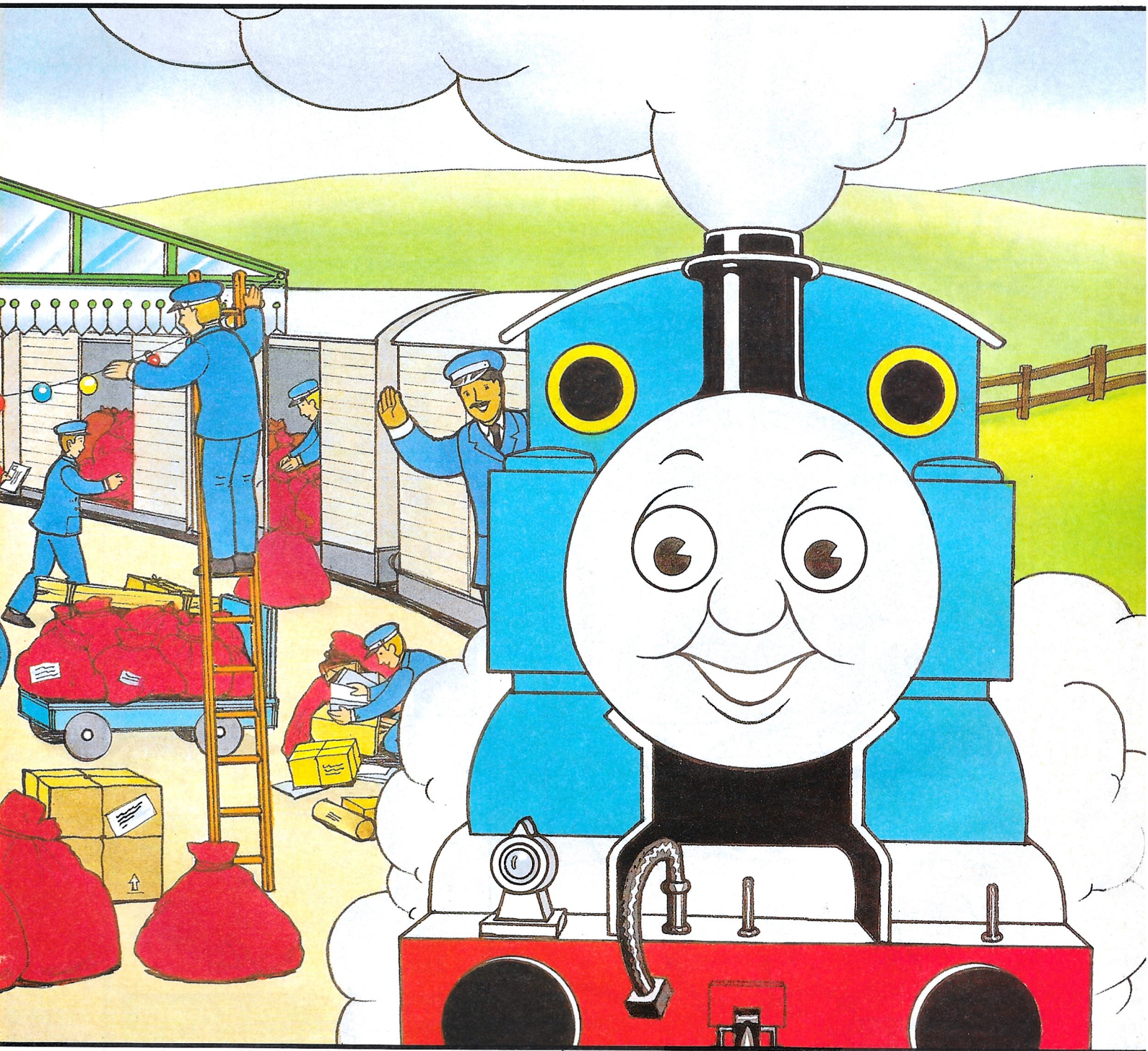
Christmas



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
How many carriages is he pulling?
What are the guards unloading from them?

Look at t
What co
Can you
Point to

s mail!



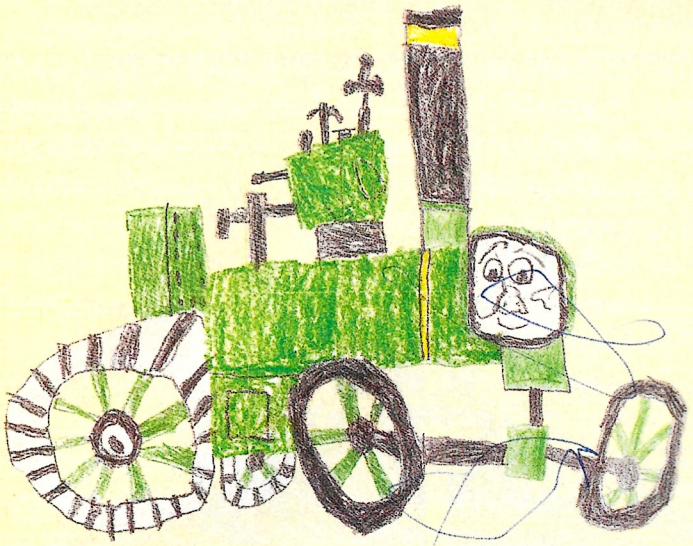
e Christmas mail-bags!
ur are they?
ee the Christmas lights?
e mailbox!

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

In our next issue: Christmas party!

PICTURES PAGE!

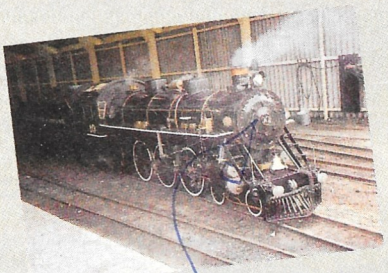
We have printed some of your favourite drawings and photographs!



This is one of the finest drawings of **Trevor the Traction Engine**! This super crayon drawing was sent to us by ***Thomas Walshe***, aged 6!

Mark Jackman is 5 years old and he says he likes ***James the Red Engine*** best because he is number 5! James is very proud of your drawing, Mark!

PHOTO GALLERY!



This is a picture of a steam train that **Adam Blundell**, from *Kent*, travelled on at Dymchurch Railway.

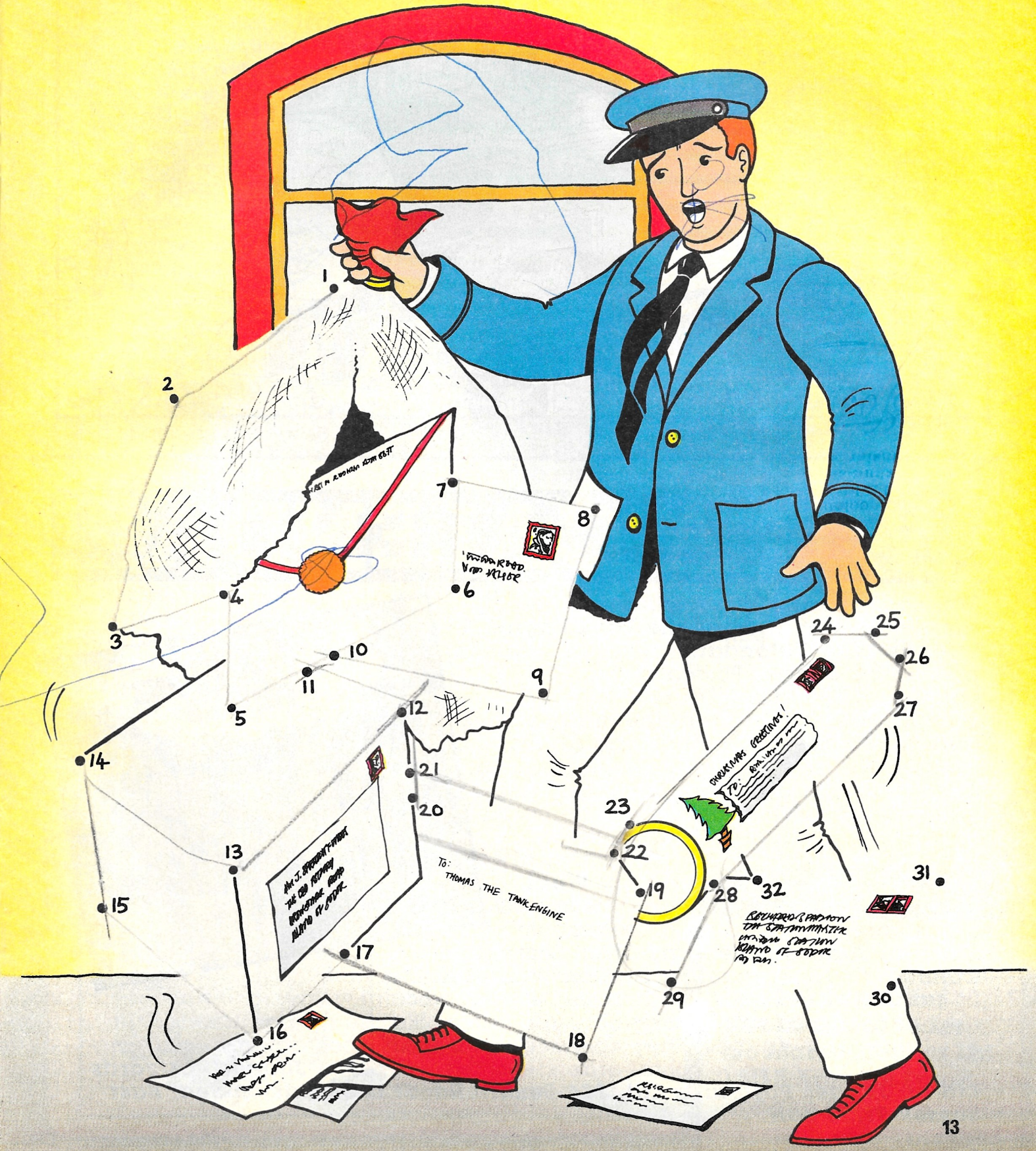
Alan Purrie, aged 3, went to Bo'ness to meet *Thomas the Tank Engine!* "Thomas is my favourite train!" says Alan.

Mike Jackson from *St Austell, Cornwall*, had an exciting day when he met **Trevor the Traction Engine!**

If you would like to see your pictures or photographs printed in some of our future issues, please send them with your name and address to ***The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.***

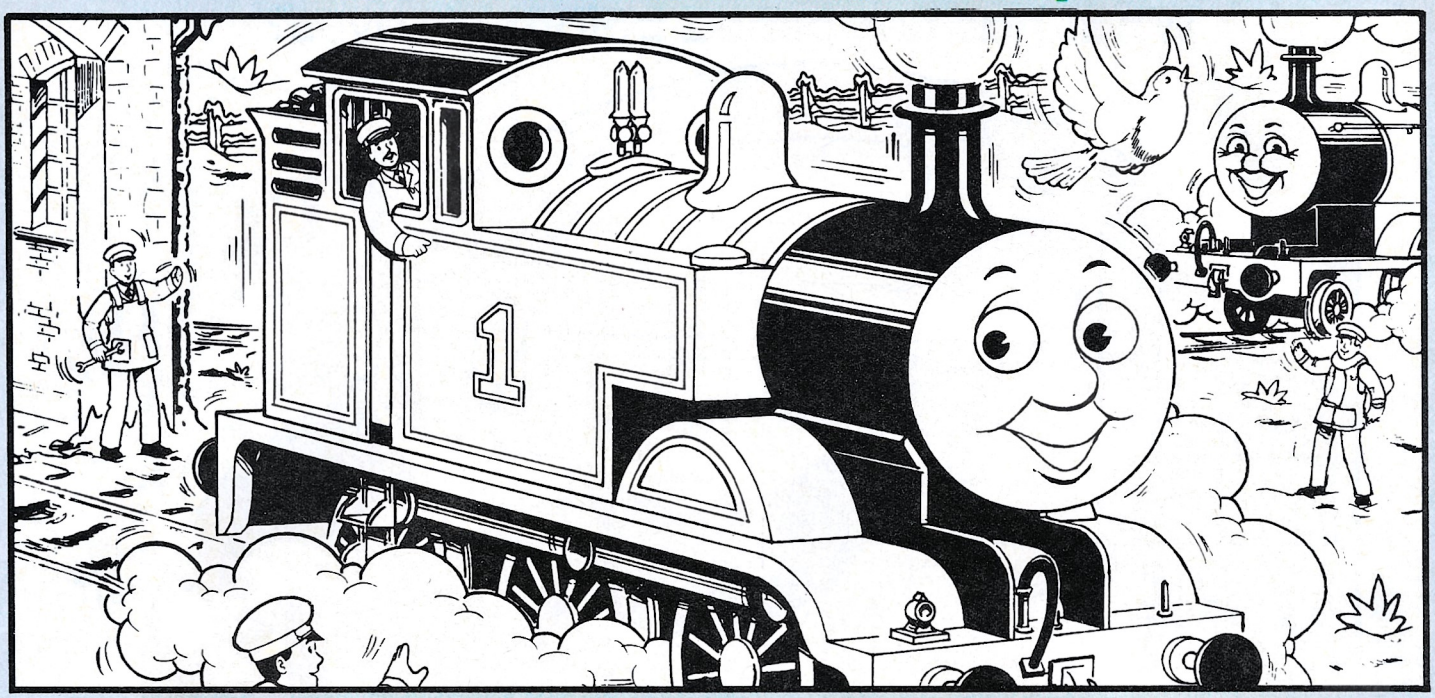
JOIN THE DOTS!

Guardsman Jim has had a surprise, What has happened before his eyes?



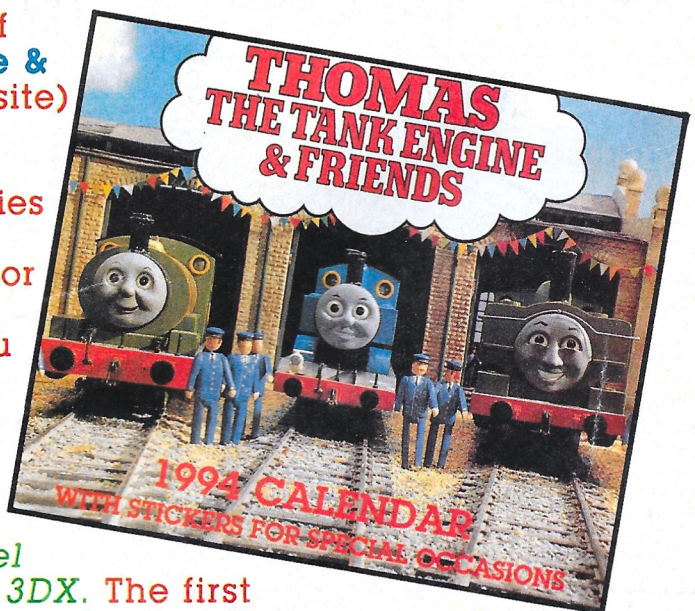
COLOURING TIME!

**Steam hisses from Thomas's funnel on a very cold day,
You can colour him in without delay!**

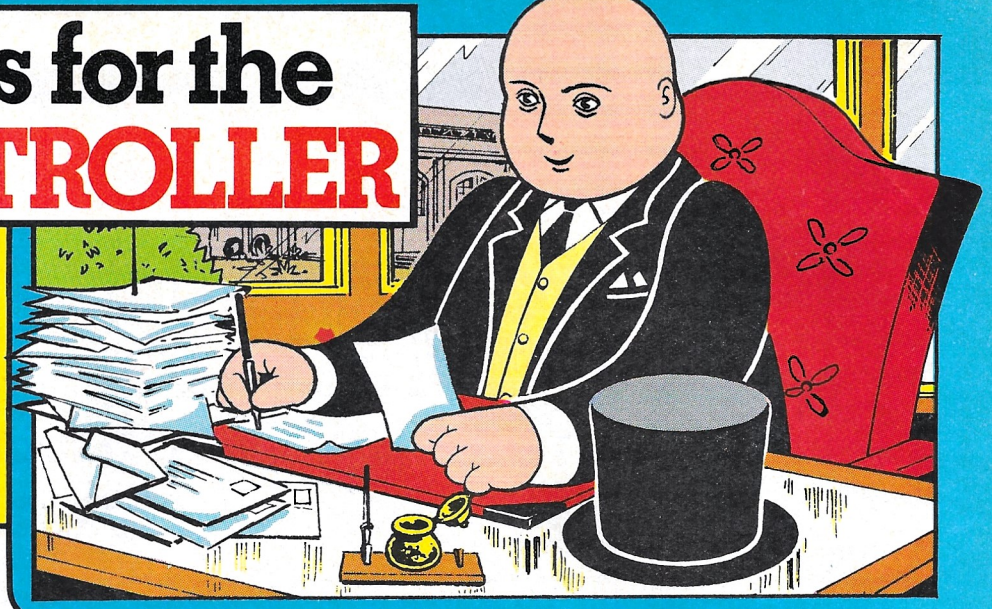


WIN A CALENDAR!

You could be the lucky winner of one of these fantastic **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends 1994 Calendars** (pictured opposite) printed by *Judges Postcards Ltd*. This colourful Calendar features 12 photographs, taken from the many stories and adventures of Thomas and all his friends. There is a large calendar grid for each month and a sheet of stickers for you to stick on the calendar to help you to remember important dates. All you have to do to win your own calendar is answer the following question: **What colour is James?** Write your answer on a postcard and send your entries to *Thomas/Judges Calendars Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX*. The first **25** correct entries to be drawn will win a calendar. If you are not lucky enough to win a calendar, you can purchase one in time for the new year from Judges! They cost £5.00, including postage and packing. Send your cheques or postal orders, made payable to ***Judges Postcards Ltd to: Judges Postcards Ltd, 176 Bexhill Rd, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 8BN.***



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My name is Robert Thompson and I live in Hillsborough in Co. Down, N.Ireland. I love to go to the Downpatrick Steam Railway with my family. We go for a ride on the train and have a snack on the Buffet Carriage. They have special trips at Christmas too!
Love from **Robert Thompson.**
It certainly sounds as though you enjoy travelling on steam railways. We have some excellent carriage cafés and snack buffets on our railway too!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

AWKWARD TRUCKS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Nan and Granpa took me to a Thomas the Tank weekend at Dean Forest Railway in Lydney. The Troublesome trucks made their engine start without a guard, and he had to run fast to catch the train. Are the Troublesome trucks always naughty?
Love from **Nathan Jones, aged 3.**
Well, the trucks are very cunning and they like to play tricks on other engines. I think they can be very awkward, especially when they are working with Diesel.

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I love your magazines because of their nice stories! I like **"The Film Show Special"** best of all!
Love from **Timothy Grundy.**
That story is one of my favourites too! I remember Annie was so excited when we actually showed the film inside her own carriages, after we discovered that the Town Hall had been flooded.

BIRTHDAYS!

Louise Natalie Wanstall, Ryan Mark Kenny, Stephanie Sykes, Benjamin Orange, Robert Thompson, Rikki Andrews, Thomas Craig Bingley, Christopher Willox and Marc Astbury.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

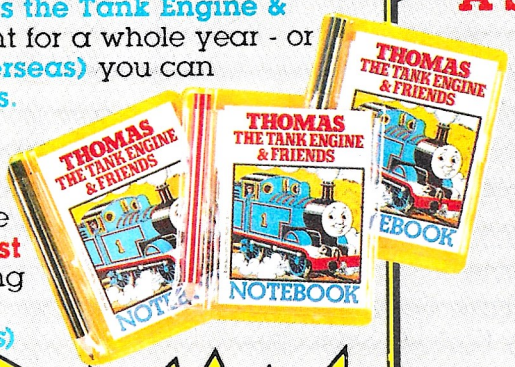
Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Subscribe!

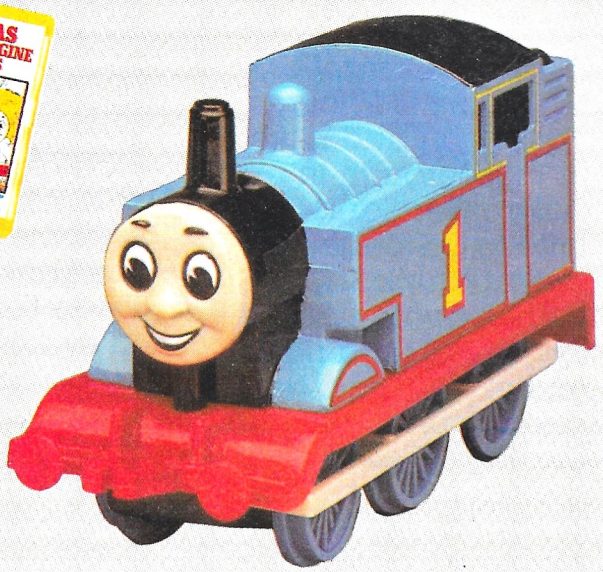
Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Thomas from ERTL

For just £18.00 (35.00 overseas), your child will be sent Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends every fortnight for a whole year - or for £10.00 (£18.00 overseas) you can subscribe for 6 months. Additionally, if you subscribe for a whole year (UK subscribers only) you will receive a FREE Thomas diecast model plus a charming notebook and pencil *(see opposite pictures)* and personalised Fat Controller's Card enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!

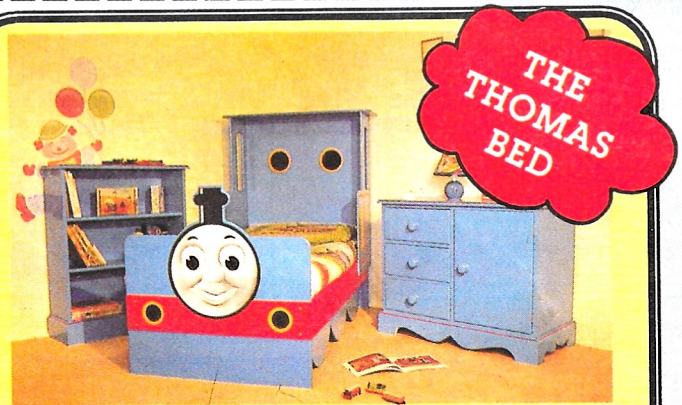


JOSHUA JONES BED DETAILS BELOW!

A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!



THOMAS BED ADVERT ▼



For further information on the **Thomas the Tank Engine Bed, Bedhead** and **Toybox**, plus the complimentary blue bedroom furniture please call: **Joshua Jones Ltd 0258 858470**
or for a **FREE** colour brochure and price list please send a large stamped addressed envelope to: ***Joshua Jones Ltd, 1A Baillie Gate Ind. Est. Sturminster Marshall. Wimbourne. Dorset. BH21 4DB.***

Joshua Jones Ltd

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12MONTHS (26 ISSUES) ☐ 0032S

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Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Donor's name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Date of birth.....Boy/Girl.

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*1. **Cheque:** I enclose my cheque/postal order for £..... (payable to MARVEL COMICS LTD)
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My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Expiry date.....

Signature.....Date.....

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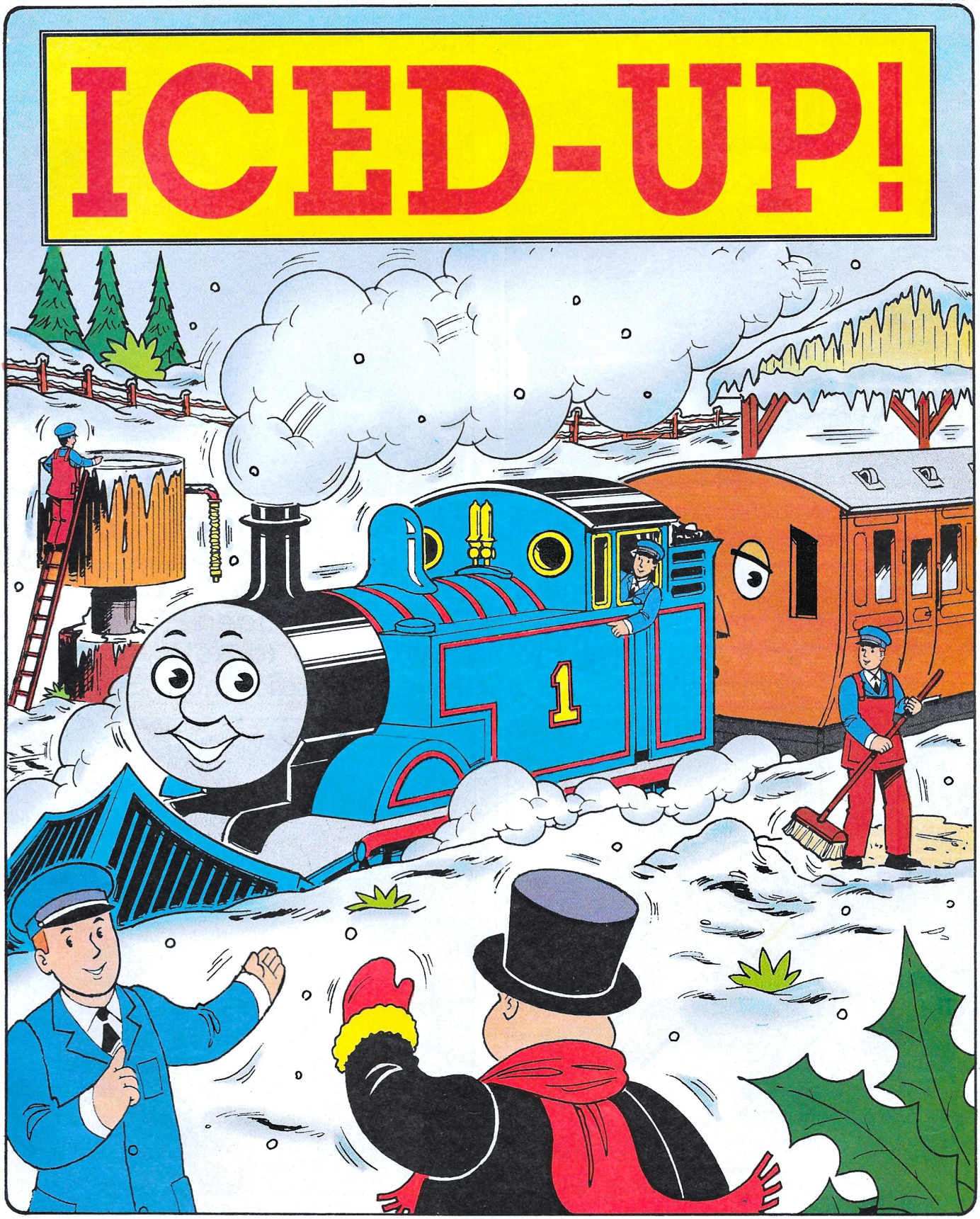
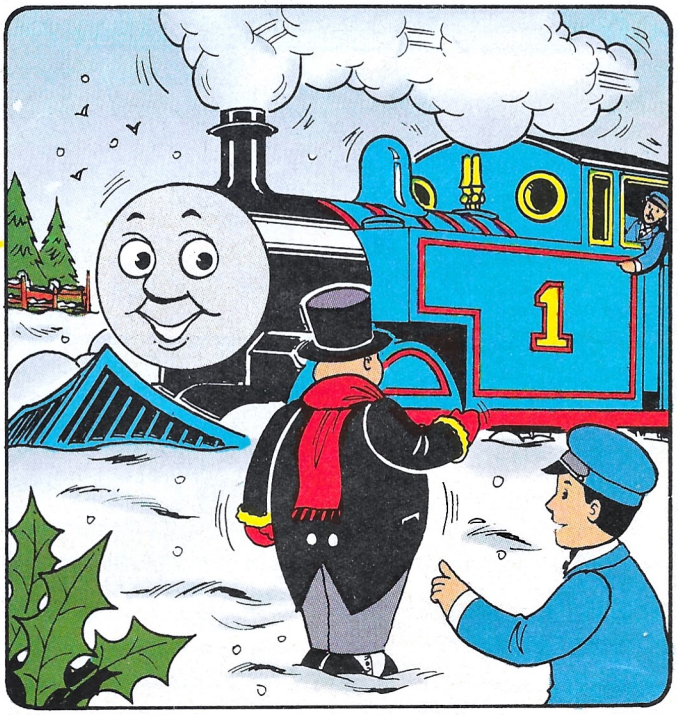
To apply for either subscription please fill out the appropriate section above and send this form, together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.**

ICED-UP!

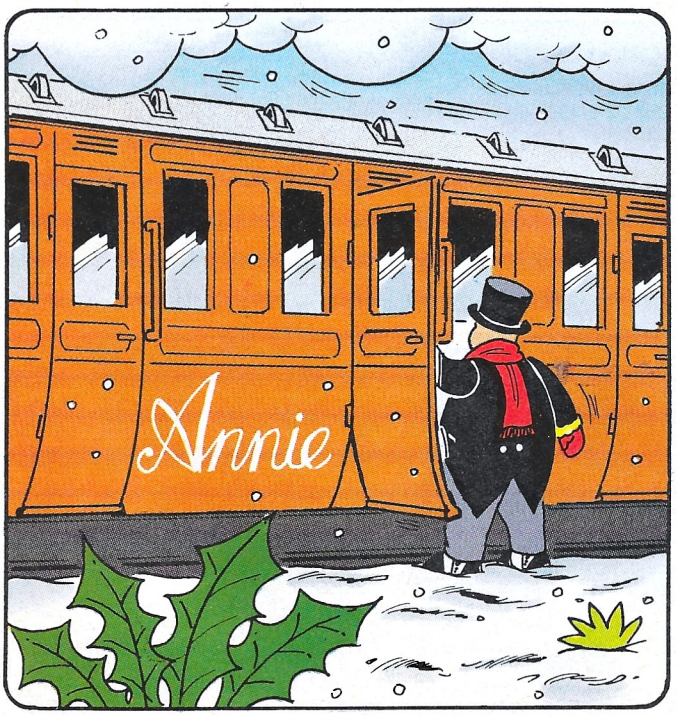


1. It was the coldest winter's day on the Island of Sodor that any of the engines could remember. Everywhere was covered in thick snow and ice.

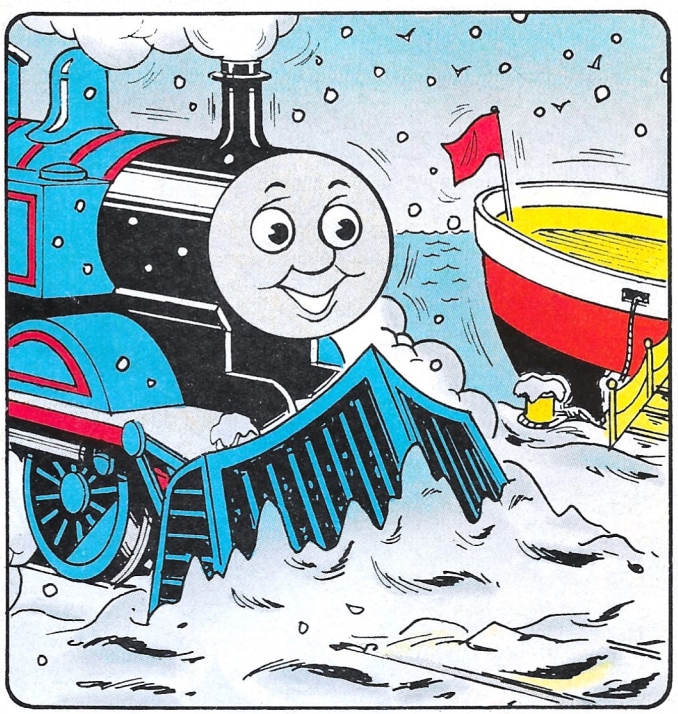
2. Glittering icicles hung from the engine shed and even the water tower had frozen. Thomas shivered as he pulled into the Main Station, coupled to Annie.



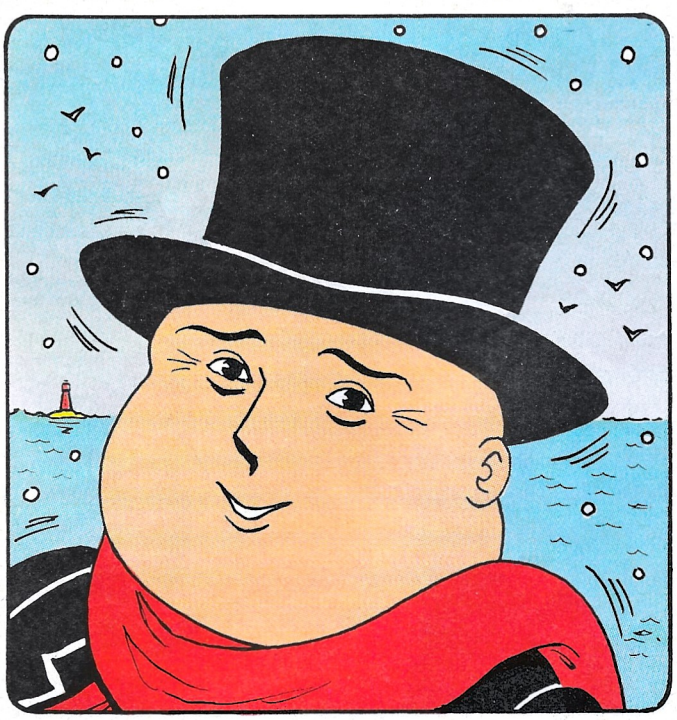
3. The Fat Controller was waiting. He wore his hat, gloves, coat and a smart new scarf. "What awful weather!" he said. "But I must visit the mainland Thomas!"



4. "I've an urgent meeting with the director of the mainland railway," the Fat Controller added. "You can rely on me to help get you there, Sir!" said Thomas.

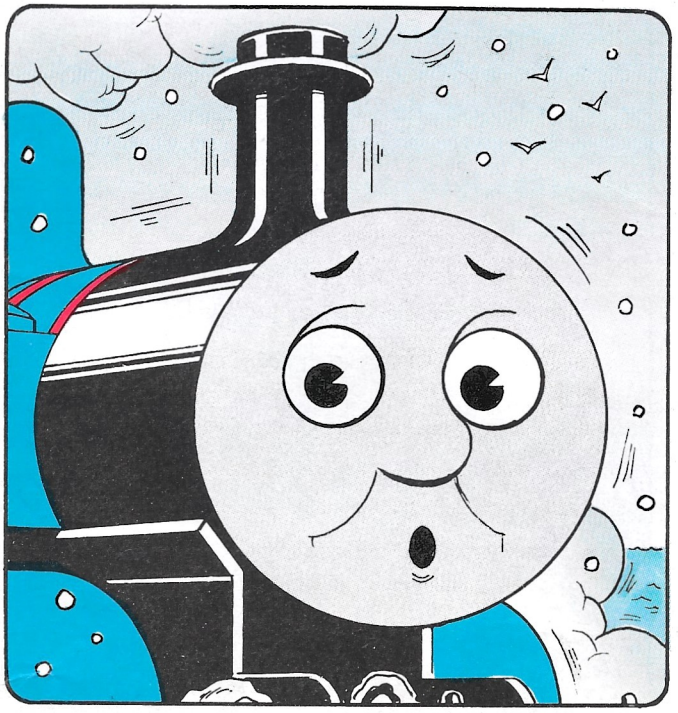


5. He steamed along, his snow-plough pushing through the snow so it swirled about him in thick clouds. Thomas reached the Big Harbour in time to meet the ferry.



6. "Splendid work Thomas!" said the Fat Controller. "I'll be back this afternoon, so be sure to come and collect me!" Thomas felt really useful.

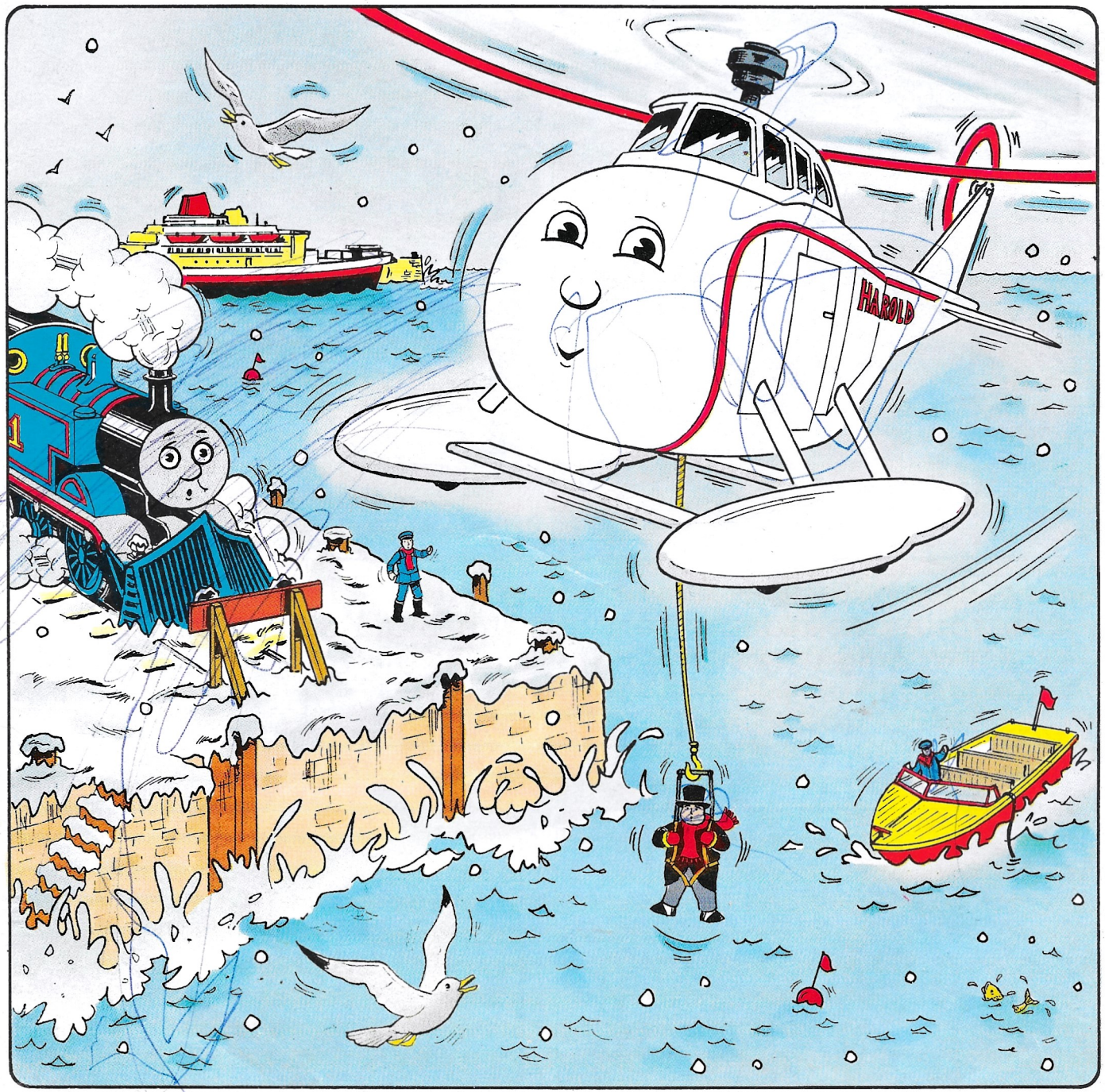
7. He watched the Fat Controller board the ferry, then it steamed out of the harbour. The Fat Controller waved goodbye to Thomas from the deck.



8. Later, Thomas returned to the Big Harbour in time to meet the afternoon ferry. But when it arrived, the Fat Controller was nowhere to be seen.

9. Then the Harbour Stationmaster received a phone call from the Fat Controller. "I missed the ferry but I have a busy railway to run."

10. The Fat Controller explained he would hire a motor launch to make the crossing. But as he approached the Harbour, the boat's motor failed.



11. Thomas watched in alarm. The sea was getting much rougher and a severe snowstorm was blowing in. "We must rescue the Fat Controller and the boat's pilot quickly!" He telephoned the airfield and, in no time, Harold the Helicopter came zooming over head. The Fat Controller was relieved to see Harold.

12. As he hovered over the motor launch, a harness was lowered for the Fat Controller to put on. He was winched up into Harold who flew him back to safety. "It was the fastest way to rescue you, Sir!" said Harold before taking off again to rescue the pilot. "Helicopters are Really Useful Too!" thought Thomas. **THE END!**

In our next issue: Thomas and the horseshoe!